

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A controller for a machine, comprising:
a machine mountable base comprising a motor protection device; and
a modular control unit replaceably mountable to the machine mountable
base, wherein the modular control unit comprises control circuitry selected for a desired machine.

2. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the motor protection device comprises a short-circuit protective device.

3. (original) The controller of claim 2, wherein the short-circuit protective device comprises an instantaneous trip.

4. (original) The controller of claim 2, wherein the short-circuit protective device comprises a magnetic circuit breaker.

5. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the motor protection device comprises a disconnect device.

6. (original) The controller of claim 5, wherein the disconnect device comprises a local lockout.

7. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises an overload protection device and a contactor.

8. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises a programmable electronic overload.

9. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises an electromagnetic contactor.

10. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises a soft start machine controller.

11. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises a variable frequency machine drive.

12. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the modular control unit comprises a motor connection terminal.

13. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the machine mountable base comprises a network terminal.

14. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the machine mountable base comprises at least one sensor terminal.

15. (original) The controller of claim 1, wherein the machine mountable base comprises at least one actuator terminal.

16. (currently amended) A motor controller, comprising:
a motor mountable base comprising a short-circuit tripping disconnect; and
a replaceable control unit removably coupled to the motor mountable base,
wherein the replaceable control unit comprises control circuitry selected for a desired machine.

17. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the short-circuit tripping disconnect comprises a magnetically tripping disconnect.

18. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the short-circuit tripping disconnect comprises a disconnect lockout.

19. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the motor mountable base comprises at least one communication terminal.

20. (original) The motor controller of claim 19, wherein the at least one communication terminal comprises a machine network terminal adapter to facilitate networking of a plurality of machine components.

21. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises an adjustable overload and a contactor.

22. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises a soft start motor controller.

23. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises a variable frequency motor drive.

24. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises at least one monitoring device.

25. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises at least one diagnostic device.

26. (original) The motor controller of claim 16, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises at least one manual control mechanism.

27. (currently amended) A controller for a machine system, comprising:
a modular control unit replaceably mountable to an on-machine motor protection base, wherein the modular control unit comprises at least one motor control device operable with at least one motor protection device of the on-machine motor protection base, and wherein the modular control unit comprises control circuitry selected for a desired machine.

28. (original) The controller of claim 27, comprising the on-machine motor protection base.

29. (original) The controller of claim 27, wherein the modular control unit is selected from a group consisting of a soft start motor controller, a variable frequency motor drive, and an adjustable overload protection device.

30. (original) The controller of claim 27, wherein the modular control unit comprises a machine network terminal adapter to facilitate networking of a plurality of components of the machine system.

31. (currently amended) A controller for a machine system, comprising:
an on-machine base comprising a machine protection device; and
a selectable control unit replaceably mountable to the on-machine base, wherein the on-machine base and the selectable control unit are cooperative to provide desired on-machine controllability, wherein the selectable control unit comprises control circuitry selected for a desired machine.

32. (original) The controller of claim 31, wherein the machine protection device comprises a magnetically tripping disconnect.

33. (original) The controller of claim 31, wherein the selectable control unit is selected from a group consisting of a soft start machine controller, a variable frequency machine drive, and an overload protection device.

34. (original) A controller for a system of distributed machines, comprising:
a machine mountable base, comprising:
a short-circuit protective device; and
a disconnect device; and
a modular control unit replaceably mountable to the machine mountable base, wherein the modular control unit comprises control circuitry selected for a desired machine.

35-50. (canceled)

51. (currently amended) A machine, comprising:
a motor; and
a motor controller mounted to the motor, comprising:
a modular base comprising motor protection circuitry; and
a module control unit comprising motor control circuitry cooperatively operable with the motor protection circuitry, wherein at least one of the modular base and the modular control unit is selectively replaceable, and wherein the control circuitry is selected for a desired machine.

52. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the short-circuit protection device comprises an instantaneous trip.

53. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the short-circuit protection device comprises a magnetic circuit breaker.

54. (new) The controller of claim 34, comprising a motor mounted to the machine mountable base.

55. (new) The controller of claim 54, comprising a machine system coupled to the motor.

56. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the short-circuit protection device and the disconnect device are replaceably mountable to the machine mountable base.

57. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the control circuitry comprises a variable frequency drive.

58. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the control circuitry comprises a soft-start machine controller.

59. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the control circuitry comprises an overload device and a contactor.

60. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the modular control unit comprises a motor connection terminal.

61. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the machine mountable base comprises a network terminal.

62. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the machine mountable base comprises at least one sensor terminal.

63. (new) The controller of claim 34, wherein the machine mountable base comprises at least one actuator terminal.